

Marriage and Divorce



Marriage & Divorce

An Overview: 2003

Marriages:

Number Occurring in S.D.	6,427
S.D. Rate per 1,000 Population	8.5
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population *	7.5*

Age of Bride for South Dakota Residents (Years)

Mean	29
Median	26
Mode	22
Range	
Lower	16
Upper	84

Age of Groom for South Dakota Residents (Years)

Mean	32
Median	28
Mode	23
Range	
Lower	16
Upper	92

Divorces and Annulments:

Number Occurring in S.D.	2,502
S.D. Rate Per 1,000 Population	3.3
U.S. Rate per 1,000 Population*	3.8*

Years Married Before Termination in S.D.

Mean	10
Median	7
Mode	3
Range	
Lower	Less Than 1
Upper	60

Note: *U.S. data are provisional.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Marriages in South Dakota

Marriage rates in South Dakota reached their peak in 1973 at 18 marriages per 1,000 population. In 2003, the South Dakota marriage rate was 8.5, a 2.3 percent decrease from 2002. On the following page is Table 51, which provides the

United States and South Dakota marriage rates from 1968 through 2003. Figure 27 (next page) illustrates the changes in these rates over this time frame.

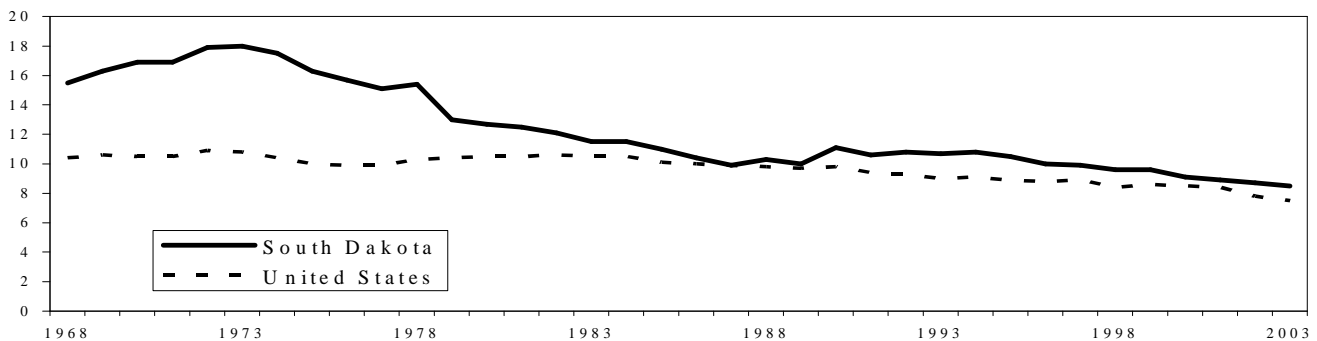
Table 51
Marriages and Marriage Rates by Occurrence
South Dakota and United States 1968-2003

Year	United States		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2003	2,187,000	7.5	6,427	8.5
2002	2,254,000	7.8	6,585	8.7
2001	2,327,000	8.4	6,719	8.9
2000	2,329,000	8.5	6,882	9.1
1999	2,358,000	8.6	6,863	9.9
1998	2,256,000	8.4	6,705	9.6
1997	2,384,000	8.9	6,867	9.9
1996	2,344,000	8.8	6,991	10.0
1995	2,336,000	8.9	7,283	10.5
1994	2,362,000	9.1	7,528	10.8
1993	2,334,000	9.0	7,413	10.7
1992	2,362,000	9.3	7,549	10.8
1991	2,371,000	9.4	7,374	10.6
1990	2,443,489	9.8	7,716	11.1
1989	2,403,268	9.7	7,108	10.0
1988	2,395,926	9.8	7,328	10.3
1987	2,403,378	9.9	6,996	9.9
1986	2,407,099	10.0	7,386	10.4
1985	2,412,625	10.1	7,793	11.0
1984	2,477,192	10.5	8,057	11.5
1983	2,445,604	10.5	8,013	11.5
1982	2,456,278	10.6	8,353	12.1
1981	2,422,145	10.5	8,662	12.5
1980	2,390,252	10.5	8,800	12.7
1979	2,331,337	10.4	8,978	13.0
1978	2,282,272	10.3	10,638	15.4
1977	2,178,367	9.9	10,359	15.1
1976	2,154,807	9.9	10,781	15.7
1975	2,152,662	10.0	11,074	16.3
1974	2,229,667	10.4	11,928	17.5
1973	2,284,108	10.8	12,291	18.0
1972	2,282,154	10.9	12,151	17.9
1971	2,190,481	10.5	11,363	16.9
1970	2,158,802	10.5	11,034	16.9
1969	2,145,000	10.6	10,909	16.3
1968	2,069,000	10.4	10,347	15.5

Note: Beginning in 1991, the United States data are based on estimates.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics
South Dakota Department of Health

Figure 24
Marriages Occurring in South Dakota and United States 1968-2003

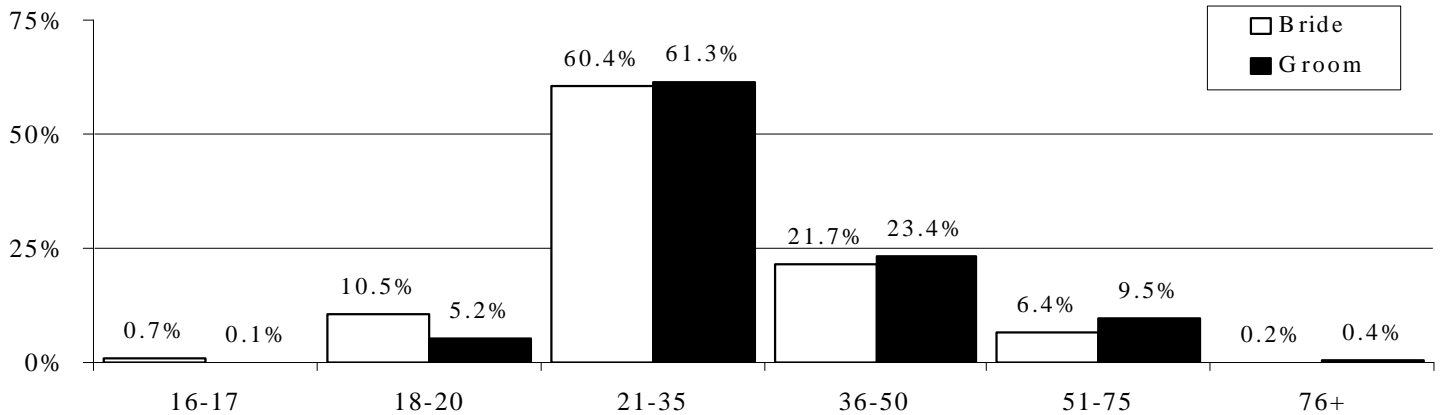


Source: National Center for Health Statistics
South Dakota Department of Health

For South Dakota residents, the mean or average age of brides in 2003 was 29 years of age, the median age was 26, and the modal age was 22. The age of brides in 2003 ranged from a low of 16 to a high of 84. The mean age of South Dakota

resident grooms in 2003 was 32 years of age, the median age was 28, and the modal age was 23. The age of grooms in 2003 ranged from a low of 16 to a high of 92.

Figure 25
Brides and Grooms by Age Group for Marriages Occurring in South Dakota, 2003



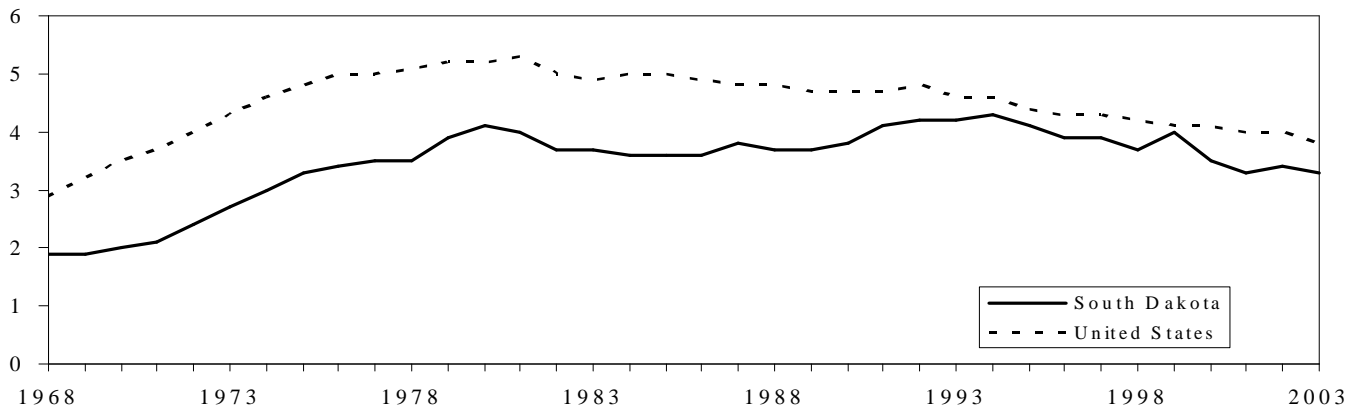
Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Divorces in South Dakota

For comparisons over time, Figure 29, below, illustrates the rates for South Dakota and national divorce rates from 1968 to 2003. Table 52, page 78, lists the rates for South Dakota and the United

States. As displayed, the 2003 South Dakota divorce rate was 3.3 divorces per 1,000 population, a 2.9 percent decrease from 2002.

Figure 26
Divorces Occurring in South Dakota and United States, 1968-2003



Note: Beginning in 1991, the United States data are based on estimates.

Source: South Dakota Department of Health

Table 52
Number and Rate of Divorces and Annulments by Occurrence
South Dakota and United States 1968-2003

Year	United States		South Dakota	
	Number	Crude Rate	Number	Crude Rate
2003	**	3.8	2,502	3.3
2002	**	4.0	2,561	3.4
2001	**	4.0	2,522	3.3
2000	**	4.1	2,678	3.5
1999	**	4.1	2,750	4.0
1998	1,135,000	4.2	2,581	3.7
1997	1,163,000	4.3	2,738	3.9
1996	1,150,000	4.3	2,749	3.9
1995	1,169,000	4.4	2,879	4.1
1994	1,191,000	4.6	2,969	4.3
1993	1,187,000	4.6	2,895	4.2
1992	1,215,000	4.8	2,932	4.2
1991	1,187,000	4.7	2,859	4.1
1990	1,182,000	4.7	2,651	3.8
1989	1,157,000	4.7	2,624	3.7
1988	1,167,000	4.8	2,649	3.7
1987	1,166,000	4.8	2,696	3.8
1986	1,178,000	4.9	2,585	3.6
1985	1,190,000	5.0	2,566	3.6
1984	1,169,000	5.0	2,498	3.6
1983	1,158,000	4.9	2,556	3.7
1982	1,170,000	5.0	2,564	3.7
1981	1,213,000	5.3	2,772	4.0
1980	1,189,000	5.2	2,811	4.1
1979	1,181,000	5.2	2,665	3.9
1978	1,130,000	5.1	2,449	3.5
1977	1,091,000	5.0	2,436	3.5
1976	1,083,000	5.0	2,352	3.4
1975	1,036,000	4.8	2,232	3.3
1974	977,000	4.6	2,027	3.0
1973	915,000	4.3	1,812	2.7
1972	845,000	4.0	1,632	2.4
1971	773,000	3.7	1,408	2.1
1970	708,000	3.5	1,359	2.0
1969	639,000	3.2	1,255	1.9
1968	584,000	2.9	1,243	1.9

Note: ** U.S. data are not available.

Crude divorce rates are per 1,000 population.

Beginning in 1991, the United States data are based on estimates.

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

South Dakota Department of Health

For South Dakota divorces, the mean or average duration of the marriages ending in divorce during 2003 was 10 years, the median duration was seven years, and the modal duration was three

years. The length of time before terminating the marriage ranged from less than one year to 60 years for 2003 South Dakota divorces.